

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /092 W
-----029388 231529Z /50

R 231443Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5057
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USNATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 MADRID 07082

USEEC AND USOECD ALSO FOR EMBASSIES

E.O. 11652 N.A.
TAGS: ELAB, SP
SUBJECT: WORKERS' COMMISSIONS FIRST CONGRESS

1. SUMMARY: THE FIRST CONGRESS OF THE COMMUNIST-
DOMINATED WORKERS' COMMISSIONS (CC.OO.) GATHERED SOME
1500 DELEGATES AND 25 FOREIGN DELEGATIONS INCLUDING
THE CGT'S SEGUY, CGIL'S LAMA, AND STRONG EAST BLOC
REPRESENTATION HEADED BY THE SOVIETS. CC.OO. SECGEN
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CAMACHO MADE A STRONG PITCH FOR UNITY WITH THE
SOCIALIST UGT AND ANNOUNCED HIS UNION'S DESIRE TO
JOIN THE ETUC. END SUMMARY.

2. SOME 1500 DELEGATES REPRESENTING A CLAIMED MEMBERSHIP
OF ABOUT TWO MILLION GATHERED FOR THE OPENING SESSION
OF THE JUNE 21-25 FIRST CONGRESS OF THE CC.OO. HELD

IN MADRID'S PALACE OF CONGRESSES. CC.OO. LEADER JULIAN ARIZA OPENED THE PROCEEDINGS BY DECLARING IT "THE FIRST CONGRESS OF THE FIRST LABOR FORCE OF SPAIN." HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIRST TWO DAYS INCLUDED SECGEN MARCELINO CAMACHO'S LENGTHY REPORT, INTRODUCTION OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC INVITED GUESTS, AND SOME CRITICAL POSITIONS TAKEN BY CC.OO. MINORITY ELEMENTS.

3. THE 25 FOREIGN DELEGATIONS INCLUDED THE PRAGUE-BASED WFTU, FRENCH CGT (GEORGE SEGUY), FINNISH SAK, ITALIAN CGIL (LUCIANO LAMA), PORTUGUESE INTERSINDICAL, EAST GERMANS, ARGENTINE CGT, BRAZILIAN OPPOSITION LABOR GROUP, CHILEAN CUT, CUBANS, URUGUAYANS, MEXICANS, NORTH KOREANS, IRAQIS, MOROCCANS, SOVIETS, CZECHS, YUGOSLAVS, HUNGARIANS, BULGARIANS, ROMANIANS, AND POLES. IN PRESS CONFERENCE, GEORGE SEGUY TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A PITCH FOR ENTRY INTO THE ETUC. HE SAID: "THE ETUC CANNOT REPRESENT THE WORKERS OF SOUTHERN EUROPE IF IT DOES NOT ADMIT THE FRENCH CGT, THE PORTUGUESE INTERSINDICAL, AND THE SPANISH CC.OO." A SOVIET TRADE UNION SPOKESMAN (UNNAMED) NOTED THAT RELATIONS WITH THE CC.OO. "ARE NOT BAD", AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN FREQUENT CONTACTS. HE ALSO EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT ADMISSION INTO THE ETUC WAS A "RIGHT" OF THE THREE UNIONS SEEKING ENTRY, AND THAT FROM WITHIN THE EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION THEY COULD FIGHT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGAINST THE MULTINATIONALS.

4. SECOND DAY PROCEEDINGS WERE HIGHLIGHTED BY SOME CRITICAL POSITIONS TAKEN BY CC.OO. MINORITY ELEMENTS (MORE TESTIMONIAL THAN EFFECTIVE, AS ONE OBSERVER PUT IT) AND MORE ADDRESSES BY FOREIGN GUESTS. LUCIANO LAMA'S REMARKS RECEIVED PARTICULAR ATTENTION IN THE SPANISH PRESS. HE NOTED THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE LABOR AND POLITICAL SITUATIONS IN ITALY AND SPAIN (I.E. VIOLENCE, AND "A POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MORAL CRISIS" WHICH REQUIRED A POLICY OF CONSENSUS), AND SUGGESTED THAT THE CC.OO. REACH A "UNITARY ACCORD WITH THE UGT" SIMILAR TO THAT THE CGIL ENJOYED WITH THE OTHER TWO MAJOR ITALIAN UNIONS. LAMA CONDEMNED TERRORISM IN STRONG TERMS.

5. IN CAMACHO'S MARATHON OPENING DAY PRESENTATION, THE THEMES WHICH DREW THE MOST ATTENTION CENTERED ON THE NEED FOR UNITY OF THE SPANISH LABOR MOVEMENT, ATTACKS ON BOTH PSOE (SOCIALISTS) AND UCD (GOVT PARTY) FOR THEIR "ELECTORAL MANEUVERINGS" IN THE RECENT LABOR PLANT ELECTIONS, A PROPOSED "SOLIDARITY

PLAN" AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT, AND THE EXPLICIT CON-
DEMNATION OF TERRORISM (INCLUDING BOTH THE BASQUE ETA
AND THE EXTREME LEFT GRAPO). THE CC.OO. LEADER CONFIRMED
THAT THE UNION WOULD APPLY FOR ADMISSION INTO THE
ETUC FOLLOWING THE CONGRESS. WHILE HE ALSO SOUGHT
TO JUSTIFY THE UNION'S SUPPORT OF THE MONCLOA PACT,
CAMACHO OPPOSED ANY IDEA OF RENEWING THIS ECONOMIC
BELT-TIGHTENING AGREEMENT. THERE WERE CONTINUED
REFERENCES TO THE UGT AND LABOR UNITY, AND A FORMAL
INVITATION TO THE UGT TO INSTITUTIONALIZE UNITY THROUGH
AN ACCORD FOR JOINT ACTION AND PROMOTION OF THE ORGANIC

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LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /092 W
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R 231443Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5058
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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USEEC AND USOECD ALSO FOR EMBASSIES

UNITY OF THE TWO TRADE UNIONS. CAMACHO CLAIMED THAT
THE CC.OO. HAD WON "60 PERCENT MORE DELEGATES THAN
THE UGT" IN THE PLANT ELECTIONS.

6. COMMENT. BRITISH LABATT WHO WAS PRESENT (AS WERE FRENCH AND WEST GERMAN LABATTS), CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY THAT THE "UNITY WITH THE UGT" THEME HAD INDEED RECEIVED VERY HEAVY PLAY. WHEN THE INVITED UGT SPOKESMAN WAS INTRODUCED TO THE CONGRESS, HIS NAME HAD BEEN GREETED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH REPEATED CHANTS OF "UNITY* UNITY" IN FACT, UGT SEC GEN NICOLAS REDONDO'S EARLIER STRONG WARNING AGAINST INDISCRIMINATE UNITY OF ACTION (AT HIS OWN UGT MAY 25-28 CONGRESS, SEE BARCELONA 400) MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN DELIVERED IN ANTICIPATION OF THIS RENEWED COMMUNIST DRIVE FOR LABOR UNITY.

7. THE CC.OO.'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IT WOULD NOW FORMALLY SEEK ENTRY INTO THE ETUC CAME AS NO SURPRISE. DURING HIS ADDRESS AT THE RECENT 9TH WFTU CONGRESS IN PRAGUE (MADRID 4036), CAMACHO'S CRITICAL AND EURO-COMMUNIST-LINE REMARKS WERE PERHAPS ONLY SECOND IN SEVERITY TO GEORGE SEGUY'S, AND WERE INTERPRETED IN SPAIN AS AIMING TOWARD CC.OO. INTEGRATION INTO THE WESTERN EUROPEAN-ORIENTED ETUC. BOTH UGT AND THE BASQUE STV--SPAIN'S ETUC MEMBERS--CURRENTLY OPPOSE CC.OO. MEMBERSHIP. EATON

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Message Attributes

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